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# **c**my **community**

A KCDF publication highlighting the girl child education programme success stories

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Success Stories</b>	
Where Art meets Agriculture	05
From a Children’s Home to the University	07
Studying Law to Empower Women in her Community	10
Poised for Professional Excellence	13
Teaching Her Way Out of Poverty	16
Giving Back by Helping the Less Fortunate in Society	18
From Job Seeker to Employment Creator	22

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KCDF is a Kenyan public foundation that supports community development initiatives across Kenya, through grant-making, enhancing capacity development, endowment building as well as local resource mobilization. Our areas of support cut across diverse development issues that affect vulnerable and marginalized communities, such as food security, education, youth and children, girl-child, livelihoods and environment, community asset building, policy, research and advocacy. All in an effort to enable needy and marginalized communities to access their rights and realize livelihood opportunities.



The Global Give Back Circle has blossomed into the largest gender-based tertiary education and mentoring program for at-risk girls in Kenya through a give-back process propelled by KCDF, USAID Kenya, a compassionate private sector, a devoted local community, mentors and the girls themselves. The 'circle' is designed for sustainability as beneficiaries learn how to become benefactors through the registration of annual give back commitments that guide them on how to drive positive change and create measurable impact in their communities. Years of commitment-making has embedded a powerful give back ethos among the girls, now young women, in the 'circle.' They are making a significant impact in their communities and throughout Kenya.

## Dear Friend of KCDF,

One of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 is to ensure there is inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. It has been said on numerous occasions that if you educate a girl, you educate the whole community. In a time where it is still a challenge for girls to access quality education, the Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) education programme ensures that girls from poor and vulnerable backgrounds are able to be empowered and to transition to higher levels of education through the provision of education and mentorship scholarships. The programme is supported by the American people through USAID Kenya, grassroots organizations, a generous private corporate sector and individual donors.

This year, the newsletter focuses on girls who through the education mentorship and scholarship programme, have completed their university education and are pursuing their dream careers while impacting the community. From growing tomatoes and using art as a form of expression; to growing up in a children's home and becoming the reigning Miss Kirinyaga University; to a young girl whose ambitions to become a lawyer were almost trampled down by society but her determination to succeed was too strong and from the heart of Kiambu were a girl rises above poverty to become a teacher, we delve into the life journey of these remarkable young ladies among others.

This girl child education program also provides mentorship opportunities to the beneficiaries and gives them access to trainings alongside their tertiary schooling, where they learn life skills such as financial literacy, reproductive health and work readiness, all with the objective of making them wholistic individuals in society. The beneficiaries are also expected to uphold the ethos of the program being giving back to the society, where they go back to the community and commit to 'pay it forward'. These beneficiaries have demonstrated benevolence thanks to the support they have received and the power of education.

Our hope is that you will be inspired through these stories and be reminded that one can rise up from any situation with a little support. There is still a lot to be done to bring equity and break the glass ceiling for the girl child. For more information on how you can support this programme and how we are working with communities to make a difference, kindly visit our website on [www.kcdf.or.ke](http://www.kcdf.or.ke)

**Editorial Team**



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It is important to give back to the community. For my give back commitment, which is the ethos of GGBC, I have joined St Anne's Secondary School where I volunteer as a teacher. I have also volunteered at Scripture Union where I was a peer counselor.

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~ **Dorcias Wacera**, Bachelor of Education and Fine Arts, Kenyatta University

# Where Art meets Agriculture

*If I would offer advice to a young girl who is looking for scholarship support to further their education ambitions, I would tell them that it is important to embrace networking as this enables one to meet different people who could be of help.*

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**R**aised by a single mother, Dorcas Wacera aged twenty-two, has always loved farming but art has always been her passion. The second born of three children is about to complete her Bachelor of Education and Fine Arts at Kenyatta University. Her journey has not been easy. Dorcas describes her experience at the university as a very good opportunity. Since the Global Give Back Circle (GGBC), a girl child education programme supported by the generous support of the American people through USAID Kenya began to support her university education, Dorcas has been able to focus on her studies, interact with students freely and be exposed to the different student clubs to create the necessary networks.

Growing up in the steep hilly area of Limuru, just a few kilometers from Limuru town, her family struggled with finances. Her mother is a businesswoman with a shop in Rongai. The money earned from this business and the tomatoes from the greenhouse sustains the family.

Dorcas went to St. Martins secondary school where the Principal identified her brilliance. The Principal knew about the financial challenges that the family faced and when an opportunity to gain from a scholarship presented itself, the principal forwarded Dorcas' name for the chance. She filled out her application and got a scholarship.

Through the mentorship program and the workshops offered by GGBC programme, Dorcas has learnt how

to set goals and objectives which has really come in handy in her schoolwork and art-work aspirations. She has learnt how to source for markets for her painting and sculptures and organize art exhibitions that earn her an income. Her skills on managing finances has also significantly improved thanks to the financial skills training workshops held every year.

“It is important to give back to the community. For my give back commitment, which is the ethos of GGBC, I have joined St Anne’s Secondary School where I volunteer as a teacher. I have also volunteered at Scripture Union where I was a peer counselor.” adds Dorcas

Dorcas hopes to integrate her passion for farming with art and hopes that both avenues will be sources of long-term income and fulfillment to her life. In the meantime, she is happy to supply tomatoes and cucumbers to the market.

“If I would offer advice to a young girl who is looking for scholarship support to further their education ambitions, I would tell them that it is important to embrace networking as this enables one to meet different people who could be of help. I would also encourage them give back to the community, just as someone has been able to give them an opportunity to pursue their own path.” Dorcas remarks with gratitude. “The scholarship opportunity really helped me and my family as the burden on finances is cushioned. I am truly grateful.”



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I do not take it for granted looking back some 10 years ago, I stood no chance of ever going to university. When I was in class three, I lost my father to a heart ailment. My mother found herself alone; with three children to look after.

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~ **Evelyne Gitau**, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. Kirinyaga University

# From a Children's Home to the University

*Evelyn Gitau, 24, had very little hopes of making it big in life after the demise of her father – when she was in class three. But today, the future looks bright for the young lady who is studying to become an IT specialist.*

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**G**itau went to school courtesy of a scholarship by KCDF. She is also a beneficiary of the Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) education programme supported by the generous contribution of the American people through USAID Kenya. She narrates her story.

When I finished primary school, I was not sure whether I would proceed to secondary school. Lucky for me, my mother had applied to Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) for me to receive a secondary school scholarship.

The scholarship came through and I was happy to be admitted at Giture Girls High School to start my secondary school journey. From Form one to four, my fee was catered for by the KCDF scholarship fund.

When in high school, my mother encouraged me to join other high school girls at a life skills training workshop that would convene over the holidays.

Back then I did not even know what it was. But they would incorporate students who were vulnerable into the programme while grooming them to be good stewards in society. I loved the workshop immediately. Just being part of a group of young people, chatting the same path of self-actualisation, felt right.

I became fully aware of my slot with GGBC when I joined Kirinyaga University. Having completed secondary school, my mother was unable to raise money that

would cater for my university fees. Being in the GGBC programme opened an opportunity for me. Because of that and my hard work at school, I was enrolled to the tertiary scholarship program.

During the life skills workshops, I was given a personal journal (to record my give-back experiences) and attached to a mentor who would walk with me. GGBC also paid my fees and upkeep – and continues to do so.

I do not take it for granted looking back some 10 years ago, I stood no chance of ever going to university. When I was in class three, I lost my father to a heart ailment. My mother found herself alone; with three children to look after.

Immediately, the family ran into headwinds. My mother could not afford to pay rent at the place we had rented in Kawangware, Nairobi.

With help from well-wishers we relocated to Ruiru – where life was relatively affordable. My mother then got a job as a cook at a children's home: Blessed Generation Children's Home.

**Mothers do everything to see their children succeed.**

We, her children, by default, became an extension of the children's home. I have the free primary education rolled out by the Kibaki government to thank for my elementary school education.

Sitting for KCPE was supposed to be the end of the road for me. But my mother applied to KCDF for the scholarship. I have no doubt in my mind that without the scholarship I would not have progressed with academics.

I am currently in my third year of study at Kirinyaga University. I am pursuing Information Technology.

I feel happy being part of the GGBC sisterhood because I have learnt a lot. We sat through sessions on reproductive health, financial literacy and other life skills necessary for a young person to develop into an all-rounded adult.

I also discovered that while we sit through biology classes in high school, it is never the same thing when the subject of reproductive health is approached by a professional in a talk designed to make a young person take charge of his or her life.

My choice to study IT was partly influenced by a short computer knowledge course through Digital Literacy program that I undertook at St. Martin's College.

Campus life, combined with mentorship from GGBC, led me to discovering a talent I had: Fashion.

I am currently the reigning Miss Kirinyaga University.

Would all of these have been possible without GGBC?

Of course not! Never in a million years had I thought my life would turn out this way. I have KCDF to thank for everything and I do not take the opportunity for granted.

That being said, the biggest lesson I have learnt from being part of this process is that helping others is a virtue that all of us should adopt for a better society.

I am a beneficiary because of other people's generosity. Being part of GGBC demands that I give back to others as well. And I have never been happier doing that.

Back at the university, together with the university head of clinical medicine, I have founded a young mothers' group where university students with children come together to talk about their pregnancy vis-à-vis studentship journeys.

The girls benefit from expert lessons that we offer; to help them change their mindset about life and hence direct them towards the right path.

I have also started a talent incubation group for children. We help the youngsters discover their interests and how to pursue them.





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Looking at the journey I have gone through to get here, I am optimistic the future will be spectacular. I aspire to become the Chief Justice in future.

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~ *Joan Cherotich, Bachelor of Law. University of Nairobi*

# Studying Law to Empower Women in her Community

*Mentorship was important for me because having someone older, who has been there and showing you the ropes, helping you figure out your direction in life, is a beautiful thing.*

**J**oan Cherotich, 22, was going to miss out on her dream of becoming a lawyer when Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) scholarship came to her rescue. Despite performing well, she had missed the cut-off mark to be sponsored by the government as a regular student to study Law in a public university.

She was advised to dial back on her ambitions and pick a course that required fewer qualifications.

In her mind, Joan could not fight off an ambition she had cultivated since class six. 'I must go to law school even if it is as a private student', she told herself.

Her conviction to study law paid off when she was picked as a scholarship recipient into the education programme.

GGBC education programme implemented by KCDF is supported by the generous contribution of the American people through USAID Kenya.

## How did you find out about GGBC?

I found out about GGBC in 2009 when I was in Form one. Linda Lockhart, the founder of GGBC, through

KCDF would visit us in Starehe Girls and they would teach students about mentorship and importance of giving back to society.

## Why did you apply for the scholarship?

My dream was to become a Lawyer. I was certain about it. And I knew that it would be a costly affair. My mother, a single parent, definitely did not have the money to take me through Law school. Hence a scholarship seemed to be a better option.

I am the first born in a family of four. We were raised by a single mother. She hawked vegetables and fruits to see us through. I came to Starehe Girls on the account of good performance and our poor background.

## What happened to your father?

He abandoned us. He just upped and left when I was seven. I have never seen him ever since.

## Why did you want to do Law specifically?

I was raised in a culture where women have the same status as children. A man can get away with anything. A woman is like a second-class citizen. Law would give



They paid my school fees and upkeep from that point until I completed my degree.

### **What if they had left you out to pay your fee in the subsequent years?**

I would have gone back to family and friends and fundraised more for me to continue my studies. But I think it would have been very difficult for me. Maybe, I would have had to defer some semesters. Or maybe, I would have been struggling to get fees to date. What I know is that my academic life would not have been as seamless as it has been. GGBC gave me a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am grateful for that.

### **What has been your highlight through the programme?**

I love that I was attached to a mentor. Her name is Linda Simwenyi, a Human Resource practitioner who works and lives in USA. Mentorship was important for me because having someone older, who has been there and showing you the ropes, helping you figure out your direction in life, is a beautiful thing. Because of mentorship, I have made less mistakes in my life. Life as a university student can be overwhelming. My mentor kept me focused on the goal and not get distracted.

### **What was your experience during the workshop sessions?**

Everything about Global Give Back Circle was fantastic. Of course, I loved the training bit: learning about financial literacy and relationships and reproductive health. However, mentorship has had the most impact on me.

### **What do you see in your future?**

Looking at the journey I have gone through to get here, I am optimistic the future will be spectacular. I aspire to become the Chief Justice in future.

### **How are you giving back?**

I have started giving back as a mentor myself. I have four mentees – all in Form Four. I also conduct public speaking sessions for young people encouraging them to aspire and chase their dreams.

me a platform and a voice to stand up for such disadvantaged women and their rights.

### **Where did you study Law?**

I went to the University of Nairobi. It was a Bachelor of Law degree (LLB) and I am currently studying at Kenya School of Law for my bar exams.

### **How has GGBC been instrumental in your journey to be a Lawyer?**

In my KCSE, I scored an A – minus of 76 points. To study Law as a government sponsored student I needed 78 points. I was asked to revise my choice for a course that demanded lesser cut-off points. I told myself I will pursue Law as a private student – if that is what it came to. I approached KCDF and they told me I could be considered for the scholarship if only I demonstrated that I could shoulder some percentage of the financial burden being a parallel student. I sort help through my home church and the constituency development fund (CDF). We fundraised, and I was able to cover my first-year tuition and upkeep fee. After my first year, I went back to KCDF and after seeing the effort I put during my first year, they supported me from the second year.



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I think my mother would have had to struggle to look for money to take me to college. However, GGBC not only paid my fees, it also attached me to a mentor, took me through workshop trainings to learn life skills, and through the partnership with Standard Chartered, an opportunity to receive work experience through their internship program to start the foundation of my career.

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~ *Josephine Wachira, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Moi University*

# Poised for Professional Excellence

*I was very happy. I could finally ease my mind knowing that I would be able to receive full support through my university education.*

**J**osephine Mumbi Wachira has no doubt in her mind that when she graduates from the university later in the year, her journey to a fulfilling career and life will have just begun.

“It has been a long journey,” she shares.

Josephine came from a poor family in Skuta, Nyeri County. She joined Starehe Girls High School, a charitable school, back in 2008.

“We were two siblings being taken care of by a struggling single mother. Going to Starehe Girls lifted the burden of paying school fees off my mother.”

After completing secondary school in 2012, managing to attain a B (plain) of 63 points, Josephine was invited back to Starehe Girls in January 2013 for a computer literacy program dubbed ‘Institute’.

“Institute was brought to us by Standard Chartered Bank. We were 30 or so students,” Josephine recalls.

In the course of the programme, 15 students would be picked to undergo interviews with the consideration of entering the Global Give Back Circle education programme. From the 15, five were to be picked and Josephine was one of them.

Standard Chartered not only trained Josephine on basic computer literacy, an opportunity to join the trainee program came with the agreement where Josephine

would be posted to a branch to work during the campus holiday break. Her postings served yet as another component of the scholarship: work readiness-where the beneficiaries are taught the ways of the working world.

She was first posted to the bank’s Kiambu branch where she worked between May and November in 2013.

“I loved the experience working with a corporate. For a fresh campus student, it was exhilarating because it gives you hope that you have employable skills,” Josephine says.

The branch manager, a sociologist, would influence Josephine’s choice of course to study in the university.

“Initially I was interested in Project Management. But after interacting with the manager and looking up to her, I was convinced that perhaps Sociology is what I was hunkering for,” she adds.

Today Josephine is in her fourth year of study at Moi University. She vows to help others just like the opportunity GGBC has presented to her life.

The Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) education programme is supported by the generous contribution of the American people through USAID Kenya and the private sector. Josephine narrates her story.

**When you emerged one of the five students who got picked how did that make you feel?**

I was very happy. I could finally ease my mind knowing that I would be able to receive full support through my university education.

**What would have been the situation if you had not been picked?**

I think my mother would have had to struggle to look for money to take me to college. However, GGBC did not only pay my fees: it also attached me to a mentor, took me through workshops to learn life skills, and through the partnership with Standard Chartered, an opportunity to receive work experience through their internship program to start the foundation of my career.

**What has impacted you the most?**

Everything sort of did equally. I however cherish the work experience at Standard Chartered Bank. They gave me a solid understanding of the corporate world. I also appreciate that I had a mentor who helped me through self-actualisation, goal setting and taught me to never give up.

**Being part of GGBC what was expected of you?**

It was my job to remain disciplined, to maintain good performance and to give back to the society.

**How are you giving back to the society?**

I started with the neighbourhood where I grew up. I have taken in two children (a boy and a girl) under my wing and I am mentoring them just like I was mentored. I sit them through tuition four days in a week. After tuition, I usually sit them down and take in questions from them: what they think about life, what they want to become, what they know about adulthood and so forth. My aim is to help them grow and understand who they are.

**Is mentorship necessary for a growing young person?**

Everyone should have a mentor as they grow up. Remember, in the university, a lot can happen when you are young. This is a time where one is quite vulnerable. Having a mentor to tell you how to arm yourself in the face of all is very helpful.





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Through the life skills workshop I attended that was organized by GGBC, I learnt how to present and express myself in a proper manner. I gained a high self-esteem, and this enabled me to stand before people which is a very essential aspect of teaching.

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~ *Keziah Njeri*, Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Statistics. Kiriri Women University of Science and Technology

# Teaching Her Way Out of Poverty

*Having a mentor has really helped me learn how to plan my life and have achievable goals and aspirations. Through this, I have the confidence to follow my dreams.*

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**K**iambu town was full of buzz as we made our way to the village of Ndumberi, where Keziah Njeri has grown up for the last twenty-two years of her life. She is the second born of a family of six, with an elder brother and two younger brothers who are both undergoing their secondary education. Her parents are both subsistence farmers who grow bananas and other vegetables which they sell to earn an income. Hers is a tale of hope and salvation. A promise for a better future.

“I went to Karunga primary school where I scored 342 marks in my final Kenya for Certificate Primary Education (KCPE) examinations. I was then called to Moi Girls Kimilili for my secondary school education. However, due to financial challenges, I joined Loreto Kiambu. While in form two, I moved to St. Annes Gichocho secondary school. One of the challenges I consistently encountered was being sent home due to school fees. This would affect my studies and make my parents very worried. However, when I reached form three, there was hope” shares Keziah.

Keziah dreamt of being a neurosurgeon when she was young, but later on, she developed a passion for mathematics and statistics. Her dream of being a teacher pushed her throughout her education. In form three, her headteacher noticed her stellar performance and knowing the financial challenges her family faced, he considered her for a scholarship opportunity. Keziah was shortlisted and after a successful application, she



secured the scholarship in form four. This would later help her achieve her dream of being a teacher. The next challenge was looking for a university that offered her dream course. Kiriri's Women University of Science and Technology stood out. Being a women's only university, Keziah describes it as a place she gained great experience where she could concentrate on her studies.

Kenya Community Development foundation (KCDF) through the education program implements the Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) programme that is supported by USAID Kenya thanks to the generous support of the American people, that offers scholarships to needy and often vulnerable students in communities. Keziah was lucky to be a beneficiary.

Keziah is a few months shy of graduating with a degree in Mathematics and Statistics. During her studies, the GGBC paid for her entire university school fees and provided accommodation and a stipend allowance. This was a big relief for her parents who did not have to worry of the financial burden for her schooling. She recently got an internship at her former high school St. Anne Gichocho where she teaches Mathematics to form one and two students. Her hope is to change the perspectives of students on Mathematics and the negative attitude associated with the subject. She also has previous experience teaching at Kenya Lite Academy. For Keziah, the future does not seem dim at all.

"Through the life skills workshop I attended that was organized by GGBC, I learnt how to present and express myself in a proper manner. I gained a high self-esteem,

and this enabled me to stand before people which is a very essential aspect of teaching." Keziah explains as she holds her two-year-old son.

Additionally, having a mentor has really helped her to learn how to plan her life and have achievable goals and aspirations. Through this she has the confidence to follow her dreams.

"I am giving back to my community through my give back commitment." Keziah adds." When you inspire another life, you transform them as well," Together with her friend Sharon Thuo, they came up with Changamsha Siste (meaning Encourage a Sister), an initiative where they provide mentorship by speaking to young people in schools and equipping them with skills that they learnt from the GGBC workshops.

"I cannot express my gratitude on how much the scholarship has helped me and my family. It really lessened the financial burden and really helped my daughter complete her studies." the mother was beaming with appreciation.

When Keziah is not teaching she enjoys her other passion. Drawing. Her love for portraits and bringing to life her day to day activities through art brings her so much joy. She hopes to integrate both aspects into her career.

Keziah's parting shot to young girls is to never give up as Gods time is the best. Always put God first and you will achieve your dreams.



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GGBC was the proverbial angel sent to give me hope. Without the scholarship opportunity, I would not have known what university education looked like.

~ **Rachel Anita Nyamoita**,  
Bachelor of Science in Entomology and Parasitology.  
University of Eldoret.

# Giving Back by Helping the Less Fortunate in Society

*Rachel Anita Nyamoita almost missed out on an opportunity to study in the university on a Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) education scholarship that is supported by USAID in partnership with KCDF. That is why she, more than any other recipient, feels an extra rush of excitement when GGBC is mentioned to her. Rachel believes everyone has a unique story of their life. And she is not an exception.*



## Who is Rachel Anita Nyamoita?

Rachel is an Entomology and Parasitology graduate from University of Eldoret.

Rachel was born 23 years ago and unfortunately, at the time of her birth the man who was her father denied responsibility.

Her mother would later meet and marry someone else and Rachel would be taken in by her grandparents. They raised Rachel in their humble home in Nyasore, a countryside village in Kisii County.

“My grandparents basically became my parents. They fully took the role and ensured I went to school. They have seen me grow from birth, to a toddler and to the person I am today,” Rachel shares.

Rachel went to a public primary school from class one to four during the free primary education program by the government. Her grandparents, thereafter, transferred her to a private academy.

“They were friends with the founder of the academy. Somehow, they managed to pay the fees until I completed my standard eight.” Rachel adds.

### Her GGBC experience

Like many previous recipients of the Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) scholarship, Rachel went to High School at Starehe Girls Centre. A centre that accommodates girls from vulnerable backgrounds who do not have the capacity to pay for their secondary education.

She first encountered the scholarship programme while she was in Form one. She loved everything about the scholarship: from its mentorship programme to the life skills workshops.

“I first applied while I was in form one, but I did not make it in the list of the final recipients. While in Form two, I gave it another shot, but the same thing happened,” Rachel recalls.

Fast forward, upon clearing Form four, she was back home: resting and doing nothing in particular. Her friend whom she schooled with, Winnie Moraa, who had successfully applied into the GGBC programme, called and informed her that GGBC had vacancies after some of the recipients flew outside the country on different scholarships to further their education.

“I felt encouraged to seize the opportunity and applied again,” she adds. This time around luck was on her side. She was picked to join the education scholarship programme in the nick of time before her admission to university.

Rachel received full support with her tuition fees, upkeep and life skills training from the programme that is supported by USAID throughout the four years she was in university.

Today Rachel is giving back by helping the less fortunate in society. “I have worked with street children, drug addicts and children with cerebral palsy,” Rachel says.

GGBC, she says, has taught her to be humble and interact with people beyond what she may have been raised to consider relatable.

### **How has GGBC changed her life?**

Before joining GGBC, Rachel always worried if she would ever go to university. Her grandparents, old and sickly, could not pay for her hefty college fees. Having been abandoned by her mother when she was younger, Rachel really did not have many options.

GGBC, she says, was the proverbial angel sent to give her hope. Without the scholarship opportunity, Rachel says, she would not have known what university education looked like.

Rachel still cherishes the lessons she learnt during the life skills training workshops. Information technology, reproductive health and relationships, financial literacy, work readiness - she took it all in.

“Campus can be a jungle,” she notes. She encountered alcohol on her first day in the university: her roommates indulged in alcohol. She saw some girls take leave of absence to go home as they were pregnant. Drugs was in plenty and night parties, a daily phenomenon.

Mentorship and the life skills, especially on reproductive health, she acquired during the workshops, she

says, kept her in check. She was constantly reminded of the importance of focusing on academics and character maturation for people her age.

### **Her current life**

Rachel currently writes a personal a blog ([www.an-itareachel.com](http://www.an-itareachel.com)) and earns a living through research writing. She however notes that this is the stepping-stone to bigger plans for her career as she is currently setting up an entomology farm for rearing crickets for human consumption.

In Form 4, she was able to reconnect with her mother. “We had a lengthy talk and she explained everything to me, and I was able to understand her. We are now in touch and I have a relationship with my half-sister from my mother’s marriage,” Rachel shares.

The 23-year-old is financially independent. With her earnings she helps pay her sister’s school fees. She is still passionate about giving back to others. Giving back is part of the GGBC way of life. Rachel has found herself easily conforming to the habit of helping the less fortunate.

She still visits children’s homes to donate her time, skills and resources while partnering with like-minded young people to do good in society.



“

The far this opportunity has pushed me through university education, I will forever remain grateful. And because one of the strong components of GGBC is teaching all the scholars to always give back, forfeiting the remainder of my scholarship, now that I can pay my own fees, is a way of me giving back and paying it forward.

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~ Winnie Moraa, Bachelor in Business Management, majoring in Purchasing and Supplies. Moi University

# From Job Seeker to Employment Creator

*It is from her mentor, Christine Muster, a Manager with a corporate firm, that Winnie learnt that employment is not the only curve to earn a decent income and meet basic needs.*

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She however will not be searching for a job. “I already have a job,” she beams. “And I am not really eager to be employed at this stage; I feel that I will enhance my work readiness skills better at my current job.”

Moraa is a research academic writer. Together with herself, she runs a team of research writers who compile academic research papers for students around the globe.

Her incredible journey began when she became a recipient of the Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) education scholarship back in 2012.

Coming from a single-parent household where income was barely enough to pay bills and put food on the table, Winnie was significantly worried if she would ever pursue tertiary education. As it was, her mother was struggling to fend for Winnie and her younger brother.

While in secondary school, Moraa filled up an application form to qualify for scholarship. She says: “I cannot remember every detail of what I was needed to fill in, but I remember answering why I wanted to receive the scholarship.”

Moraa applied for GGBC while in Form three at Starehe Girls Centre. Starehe Girls, a charitable school, admits

bright but needy students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Catherine Kiganjo, the Program Coordinator in charge of GGBC at Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), implementers of the programme with the support of USAID, explains that the scholarship is keen on bright students from underprivileged backgrounds.

“These are students who have shown the determination to excel but whose ambitions are threatened by poverty. The aim is to empower them,” Kiganjo says.

To qualify for the scholarship Winnie needed to first and foremost perform well in class. And she did.

She received official communication of her selection for the scholarship as she transitioned to Form four. “I felt ecstatic!” she says. She had every reason to be. The benefits Winnie has derived from GGBC, she says, have changed the course of her academic life.

“I was attached to a mentor – who was like a guide,” Winnie says.

Her mentor, she says, was like a second mother to her. She went to her for anything. “I went to her when my brother was causing trouble in school and it was affecting me. I went to her when I had relationship issues. My mother is pretty traditional and on some of



these issues she would not be as open to sit down with me,” Winnie adds.

It is from her mentor, Christine Muster, a Manager with a corporate firm, that Winnie learnt that employment is not the only curve to earn a decent income and meet basic needs.

The decision to do research writing resulted from that lesson. In a month she makes anything between Kes. 20,000 and Kes. 60,000 and during seasons when business is at peak, she makes upwards of Kes. 70,000. Enough to fend for herself and her family.

“The reason why this scholarship is fundamental in my story is because beyond catering for my tuition fees and receiving mentorship, we also sat through special courses on managing personal finances, reproductive and sexual health as well as work readiness preparation for those about to complete their degrees.”

In January this year Winnie wrote to KCDF asking to forfeit the remainder of her GGBC scholarship - which would have catered for her final year academic studies.

“It is a decision I arrived at after discussing with my mentor. The far this opportunity has pushed me through university education, I will forever remain grateful. And because one of the strong components of GGBC is teaching all the scholars to always give back, forfeiting the remainder of my scholarship, now that I can pay my own fees, is a way of me giving back and paying it forward,” Winnie adds.

With this deed, Winnie demonstrates qualities that she has internalised through mentorship and life skills offered by the scholarship. The resources afforded to her by the scholarship, she says, will not go to waste as she hopes to impact other young people’s lives.

Winnie is additionally involved in public speaking and mentorship for upcoming young talent which she organises with various high schools to offer free talks to students and young people.

Since its inception in 2009 and partnership with USAID and KCDF, GGBC has supported over 1000 girls and 30 boys through their window of opportunity (WOO).

# PARTNERS

## Scholarships

USAID	Andela	Shah Ranmal Raja Trust
ATE Bank	KPMG East Africa	Individual Donors
Angel Investors	Mastercard Foundation	Victoria Commercial Bank Charitable Trust
Deloitte	Isuzu East Africa	T. Rowe Price
Standard Chartered Bank	Rhino Cement Foundation	Apple
Equity Bank	Surgipharm Ltd	Morgan Stanley
Aqua Agencies	ZEP-RE Reinsurance	Cisco
Yahya Family Trust	Monsanto Fund	Google
	Microsoft	

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## Internships

Equity Bank	Monsanto	Johnson & Johnson
Ecolab	Surgipharm Ltd	ZEP-RE Reinsurance
KPMG East Africa	Diamond Trust Bank	USAID
Total	Standard Chartered Bank	
Deloitte	YALI	

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## Mentorship

Amiran Kenya	Standard Chartered Bank	Safaricom
KPMG East Africa	Ernst & Young	Safari Park Hotel
Barclays	Citibank	Sarova Hotel
Equity Bank	Intel	Isuzu East Africa
USAID	Deloitte	Cisco
Microsoft	PwC	Google
Gates Foundation	Proctor & Gamble	Apple
ZEP-RE Reinsurance	USAID	Total
Mastercard Foundation	USDA	Andela
YALI	T. Rowe Price	Sygenta
Twitter	ICEA Lion	Safaricom Foundation

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## Others

Liquid Telecom - Internet at Starehe Girls'Centre	Oracle Edge Consulting - Life-Skills Training
Eaton Electrical Ltd - Give Back Awards	Safaricom Foundation - ICT Lab
Citibank - Mentor Events & Life-Skills Workshop	Safaricom - Mentor Events
PwC - Mentor Events	Sarova Hotels - Accommodation
ZEP-RE Reinsurance - Mentor Events	KPMG East Africa - Mentor Events & ICT Lab
PwC - Mentor Events	Andela - Life-Skills Workshops
Ford Foundation - Leadership Conference	USAID - Life-Skills Workshops
Microsoft - ICT Lab	





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